

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

u/i Army Corps of Southern Albania

1. [redacted] in early 1954 an Army Corps of the South was established with Headquarters in Elbasan. The new Army Corps has subordinate brigades in Elbasan and Korce and subordinate regiments in Erseke and Pogradec.

2. The Korce Brigade is commanded by Major Muharrem Kokomani, who was transferred to Korce from the Shkoder Brigade in January 1954. The Korce Brigade has three infantry battalions, an artillery group, an anti-aircraft artillery battery, a signal company, and an NCO training battalion. During the winter the units of the Korce Brigade are stationed in the barracks located south of Korce. During the summer they usually move to Voskopoje and Vithkuq.

3. [redacted] the Korce Brigade had received orders from the Elbasan Corps to carry out military training and maneuvers along the Greek border and to repair the border defenses in that area during the summer of 1954.

u/i Army Corps of Northern Albania

4. The Headquarters of the Army Corps of Northern Albania was established in Kruje in early 1952, and a few months later it was transferred to Shkoder. The Army Corps consists of the following units: 22 Infantry Brigade of Shkoder; 21 Infantry Brigade of Burrel; 25 Infantry Regiment of Kukes (also known as the 5013 Infantry Regiment); and a signal company and Zbulimi (combat intelligence) company attached to the Headquarters of the Army Corps in Shkoder.

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5. [ ] staff sections and offices of the Army Corps of the North:

- a. Commanding Officer: General Arik Asko (or Hasko)<sup>2</sup>
- b. Commissar: Lt. Col. Strato Satoberda
- c. Chief of Staff: Lt. Col. Xhemal Pendavinje
- d. Chief of Operations: Headed by a Major
- e. Commander of Artillery
- f. Chief of the Engineers
- g. Chief of the Signal Section
- h. Chief of the Food Supplies
- i. Chief of Clothing
- j. Chief of Armament
- k. Chief of the Finance Section
- l. Chief of the Zbulimi (combat intelligence)
- m. Chief of Provisions and Services
- n. Chief of the Sigurimi Section
- o. Agitprop Section
- p. Officer in Charge of the Politburo
- q. Personnel Officer

6. The 22 Infantry Brigade of Shkoder was commanded by Major Muharrem Kokomani until January 1954, when he was transferred to Korce. The brigade is made up of three infantry battalions, one artillery group, an anti-aircraft artillery battery, a NCO training battalion, and a signal company. During the winter the above units are stationed in the Army barracks located northeast of Shkoder. During the summer they move to a location about 16 kilometers north of Shkoder of the right side of the road leading from Shkoder to Konit. [ ] strength of the brigade [ ] should be about 3,500 officers and men.

7. The Burrel Brigade has the same organization as the Shkoder Brigade. During the winter the units of the Burrel Brigade are housed in barracks located in Burrel. During the summer they move to the Qaf e Stanes area.

#### Organization of 22 Infantry Regiment, Kukes

8. The 22 Infantry Regiment has the following units: 12, 93, and 107 infantry battalions; NCO training battalion; a 75 mm mountain artillery battery; a 107mm mortar battery; a signal company; a services (carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, etc.) company; an anti-tank artillery platoon; a Zbulimi platoon; and a medical section.

9. The organization of the staff of the 22 Infantry Regiment is as follows:

- a. Commander: Major Nebi Mala<sup>3</sup>
- b. Commissar: Captain First Class Sotir Peci<sup>4</sup>
- c. Chief of Staff: First Lieutenant Tefik Ruci
- d. Chief of Operations: Vacant [ ]
- e. Chef of Artillery: First Lieutenant Milto Beleri
- f. Commander of Artillery: First Lieutenant Sefer Muca
- g. Chief of the Sigurimi: First Lieutenant Josif (Inu)
- h. Officer in Charge of Food Supplies: Unknown [ ]
- i. Officer in Charge of Clothing: Second Lieutenant Mihal (Inu)
- j. Finance Officer: Second Lieutenant Seit Shehu
- k. Chief of the Engineers: Captain Second Class Ferit Myftaraj
- l. Armament Officer: First Lieutenant Basri Mengulli
- m. Signal Officer: Second Lieutenant Tosun Serani
- n. Secretary of the Politburo: Captain Kico Cici
- o. Chief of Agitprop: First Lieutenant Viktor Kola
- p. Youth Organization Officer: Second Lieutenant Kovi (Inu)
- q. Officer in Charge of the Arms Depot: A Second Lieutenant
- r. Personnel Officer: Second Lieutenant Nexhip Bregu
- s. Officer in Charge of Provisions and Services: A major
- t. Housing Officer: A Captain second class
- u. Transportation Officer: A Second Lieutenant
- v. Officer in charge of the Club: Second Lieutenant Sherif Malesio

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10. The 12, 93 and 107 Infantry battalions have the following units: Two infantry companies (recruits), one infantry company (reserves), one heavy machine gun company, one 82mm mortar company, an anti-tank platoon, a signal platoon, and an engineer platoon. The two companies (recruits) consist of draftees serving their time of service, and the infantry company (reserve) consists of reservists called up for two months training.

11. Each of the infantry companies has three infantry platoons and a machine gun platoon. The strength of the company is 108 men: 6 officers (commanding officer, commissar, and the four platoon commanders), 11 noncommissioned officers, and 91 other enlisted men.

12. Each infantry platoon has three squads, each of which is made up as follows:

- a. Squad leader NCO, armed with a sub-machine gun or rifle.
- b. Observer (vrojtuze) armed with a sub-machine gun or rifle
- c. Machine gun operator. According to army regulations he was supposed to be armed with a revolver, but there are none in the Kukes Regiment.
- d. Assistant machine gun operator, armed with a rifle
- e. Sniper
- f. An ammunition bearer
- g. Three riflemen

13. The squads were not always complete as described in paragraph 12, but according to organizational plans, that is the way they would be in the event of war.

14. The machine gun platoon of an infantry company has two squads and has the following personnel: 1 officer, 2 noncommissioned officers, and 10-12 soldiers. The platoon also has two Russian Maxim caliber 7.62 machine guns and two mules. Each squad was made up as follows: A squad leader NCO armed with a sub-machine gun, rifle, or revolver; machine gun operator armed with a revolver or sub-machine gun; assistant machine gun operator armed with a rifle; two ammunition bearers; and a soldier to take care of the mule.

15. The heavy machine gun company of an infantry battalion is made up of three platoons, each of which has two squads. The company strength is as follows: 5 officers (commanding officer, commissar, and three platoon leaders); 6 noncommissioned officers (leaders of the six squads); and 30 soldiers. The company has six machine guns of Russian make and six mules. Each squad is made up as follows: Squad leader, armed with a rifle or revolver; machine gun operator, armed with a revolver; assistant machine gun operator, armed with a rifle; two ammunition bearers; and a soldier to take care of the mules.

16. The 82mm mortar company of an infantry battalion has three platoons, each of which has two squads. The company has 5 officers (commanding officer, commissar, and three platoon leaders), 6 noncommissioned officers (squad leaders), 30 soldiers, 6 Russian 82mm mortars, and 6 mules. Each squad is made up of a squad leader, mortar operator, assistant mortar operator, two ammunition bearers, and a soldier who takes care of the mules.

17. The anti-tank platoon of an infantry battalion has one officer, two noncommissioned officers (squad leaders), eight soldiers, and two anti-tank guns. The platoon has two Russian anti-tank guns, but informant cannot describe them.

18. The signal platoon of an infantry battalion has two squads, each of which has a squad leader (noncommissioned officer) and four soldiers (messengers). The platoon is commanded by an officer.

19. The engineer platoon of an infantry battalion is made up of two squads, each of which has an NCO squad leader and four soldiers. Their equipment consists of shovels, axes, and wirecutters, and they are trained to lay and remove barbed wire obstacles and mines.

20. The NCO training battalion has the following units: Two infantry companies, a heavy machine gun company, a 82mm mortar company, and a Seksioni Zjarri (Firing Section) made up of topographers, signal personnel, and others. The organization of this battalion resembles that of the infantry battalions, but it has fewer personnel.

21. The 75mm mountain artillery battery is made up of two artillery platoons (called seksion) each of which has two squads. The battery has 4 officers (commanding officer, commissar, and 2 platoon leaders), 4 noncommissioned officers (1 for each of the squads), 30 to 40 soldiers, 4 75mm guns, and 12 mules. Each squad has a leader (a NCO armed with a sub-machine gun, a gun operator armed also with a rifle, an assistant gun operator armed with a rifle, and six to eight soldiers to handle ammunition and take care of the mules.

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22. The 107mm mortar battery has three platoons (called seksion), each of which has two squads. The company has 5 officers (commanding officer, commissar and 3 platoon leaders) 6 noncommissioned officers (squad leaders), 36 soldiers, 6 107mm Russian mortars, and 12 mules.

23. The signal company has a wireless platoon and a telephone platoon. It has 4 officers (commanding officer, commissar, and 2 platoon leaders), 6 noncommissioned officers, 30 to 35 soldiers, and 4 wireless sets. The wireless platoon has 4 portable wireless sets and 15 men. The telephone platoon lays the wire for and maintains all the telephones of the regiment, and operates a switch board. The telephones are of Soviet make

24. The anti-tank artillery platoon has 1 officer, 2 noncommissioned officer (squad leaders), 15 soldiers, 2 anti-tank guns and 2 GMC trucks. The guns are of Russian manufacture and informant estimates that they are larger than 45mm caliber, and estimates that the barrel is about three meters long.

25. The Zbulimi platoon is a special unit trained in the techniques of capturing prisoners, using a knife to kill, etc. The platoon is made up of an officer platoon leader, three squad leaders, and 18 men. The men of the Zbulimi platoon must be of good physique and loyal to the Communist regime.

26. The services mbrepavijes - behind the lines (rear area?) company has six drivers, three or four shoemakers, two tailors, eight musicians (the regimental band), two blacksmiths, and five horse cart drivers.

27. The engineer platoon has 2 officers, 3 noncommissioned officers (squad leaders), and 16-18 soldiers. Each of the three squads has 5-6 men. The platoon has supplies of mines, explosives, rolls of barbed wire, and wirecutters.

28. The anti-tank rifle platoon has 1 officer, 3 noncommissioned officers (leaders of the three squads), 12-14 soldiers, and 3 anti-tank rifles. the rifles were brought from the Soviet Union.

29. The anti-aircraft machine gun platoon has 1 officer, 3 noncommissioned officers (leaders of the three squads), 18 soldiers, 3 anti-aircraft machine guns, and 3 mules. The unit was armed with Russian machine guns until 1952, when they were replaced with German machine guns.

30. the medical section has one doctor.

31. Until September 1953 there was one Russian officer, a major, assigned as an advisor to the Headquarters of the Kukes Regiment. In September the number of Russians was increased to five, two assigned to the Headquarters and one to each of the battalions.

#### Kukes Airfield

32. The airfield of Kukes consists of a portion of the plain which has not been cultivated. The field has no runways or any other installations. During the winter of 1952, when General Petrit Dume was on an inspection trip in the Kukes area. the roads were blocked with snow and Dume was not able to return to Tirana by car. he cabled Tirana for a plane to bring him back, but the plane was not sent because the field could not be used.

#### Comments:

1. There have been several sporadic and unconfirmed reports from border crossers on the existence of corps headquarters in the Albanian army. This is the first relatively complete report received on the disposition and composition of army corps.
2. General Askó (or Haskó) was reported in 1952 as a colonel who was formerly

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commanding officer of the 8 Infantry Division in Korce. On 24 February 1954, radio Tirana announced his promotion to the rank of major general. He attended military courses in Tirana under the direction of Soviet officers for a period of 4 years. There have been no reports on his attending military schools in the Soviet Union.

3.

4.

5. According to Source, "sher" is the training and planning officer of a particular staff section while the "commander" directs the troops.

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